

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 EURE-00 /093 W

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P R 091442Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2706

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ELAB, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: MINERS TURN BACK LEFT WINGERS AS TUC SEARCH FOR

NEW WAGES FORMULA GOES ON

REF: LONDON 10351

BEGIN SUMMARY: A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO THE TUC'S ELEVENTH-

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HOUR SEARCH FOR A VOLUNTARY WAGES FORMULA WAS AVOIDED

WHEN THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS TOOK THE TEETH OUT OF A LEFT-WING RESOLUTION CALLING FOR 100 POUNDS A WEEK MINERS' PAY. END SUMMARY.

1. LAWRENCE DALY, NUM GENERAL SECRETARY, RETURNED LAST NIGHT, JULY 8, FROM SCARBOROUGH, WHERE THE NUM IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CRUCIAL DEBATE OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL TODAY (ON THE EVE OF THE EXPECTED PUBLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WAGE-PRICE WHITE PAPER).

2. THE NUM HAD BEEN FACED EARLIER WITH A RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY ARTHUR SCARGILL, A YOUNG NUM LEFT WINGER, AND HIS YORKSHIRE MINERS, CALLING ON THE NUM TO "DEMAND" IN ITS AUTUMN WAGE NEGOTIATION 100 POUNDS A WEEK FOR MINERS AT THE COAL FACE AND, "IN THE EVENT OF AN UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD," COMMITTING THE NUM EXECUTIVE TO CONSULT MEMBERS "WITH A VIEW TO TAKING VARIOUS FORMS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION."

3. BUT MODERATE OPPOSITION TO THIS HARSH RESOLUTION -- WHICH WOULD HAVE TIED THE HANDS OF THE NUM IN NEGOTIATIONS -- FORCED SCARGILL TO BOW TO A CRITICALLY SOFTER VERSION. THE NUM CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO SUBSTITUTE IN AN ALTERNATE RESOLUTION THE WORD "SEEK" FOR "DEMAND" (A 100 POUNDS A WEEK WAGE) AND TO REMOVE THE EXPLICIT THREAT OF "INDUSTRIAL ACTION."

4. ALTHOUGH THE SOFTER RESOLUTION HAD BEEN AGREED TO IN BEHIND-THE-SCENES SESSIONS, THE BITTERNESS OF THE BATTLE CONTINUED TO MANIFEST ITSELF ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR, WITH SCARGILL INSISTING ON INTERPRETING EVEN THE NEW RESOLUTION AS A COMMITMENT BY THE NUM TO GO FOR 100 POUNDS A WEEK THIS AUTUMN, AND JOE GORMLEY, NUM PRESIDENT, AND DALY, AMONG OTHERS, MAINTAINING THAT 100 POUNDS A WEEK WAS AN OBJECTIVE AND NOT AN IRONCLAD CONDITION FOR COAL INDUSTRY PEACE NEXT YEAR. THESE DIFFERENT INTREPRETATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETURN TO PLAGUE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NUM AND THE NCB THIS AUTUMN, BUT AT LEAST THEY WILL NOT DESTROY THE TUC'S CURRENT YEOMAN EFFORTS TO

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DELIVER A VOLUNTARY WAGE RESTRAINT FORMULA TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND, OF COURSE, PRIME MINISTER WILSON (WHOSE SPEECH TO THE NUM EARLIER THIS WEEK OBVIOUSLY HAD A VERY IMPORTANT IMPACT).

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFLATION, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, WAGE RATES, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON10485
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750236-0934
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750773/aaaacnrim.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 10351
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINERS TURN BACK LEFT WINGERS AS TUC SEARCH FOR NEW WAGES FORMULA GOES ON
TAGS: EFIN, ELAB, PINT, UK, NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006